California GARDEN

MARCH—APRIL 1983
Seventy-five Cents
VOLUME 74 NO. 2
ISSN 0008-1116

HORTICULTURE CALENDAR

Mar 1
San Diego Floral Event

Flower Arranging Class with Martha Rosenburg
Tues. – 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. – Info: 296-2757 (Mrs. Hoyt)

Mar 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
San Diego Floral Event

Thursday Workshop with Colleen Winchell
Free Floral Crafts Instruction – Open to the Public
San Diego Floral Asso. Garden Center, Balboa Park, San Diego
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. – Info: 479-6433 (Mrs. Winchell)

Mar 15
San Diego Floral Event

Flower Arranging Class with Adrienne Green
Tues. – 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. – Info: 296-2757 (Mrs. Hoyt)

Mar 19, 20

15th Annual Festival of Ikebana and Japanese Art
San Diego Chapter, Ikebana International
Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park, San Diego
Sat. & Sun. – 11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. – Free

Mar 19, 20

37th Annual Orchid Show "A Festival of Orchids"
San Diego County Orchid Society Presentation
Al Bahr Temple, Highway 163 & Clairemont Mesa Blvd.
(Next to the Sands Hotel)
Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. – Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Donation: $1.50

Mar 24, 25

Flower Arrangers' Guild of Southern California 26th Annual Show
"Spring–The Creative Way" – San Marino Woman's Club
1800 Huntington Drive, San Marino, Calif.
Thurs. 1:00 to 8:00 p.m. – Fri. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Donation: $3.00 (free parking)

Mar 26, 27

Balboa Park African Violet Society 8th Standard Show
Casa del Prado,Majorca Room, Balboa Park, San Diego
Sat. 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. – Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. – Free

Mar 29
San Diego Floral Event

Flower Arranging Class with Adrienne Green
Tues. – 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. – Info: 296-2757 (Mrs. Hoyt)

Apr 7, 14, 21, 28
San Diego Floral Event

Thursday Workshop with Colleen Winchell
Free Floral Craft Instruction – Open to the Public
San Diego Floral Asso. Garden Center, Balboa Park, San Diego
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. – Info: 479-6433 (Mrs. Winchell)

Apr 10

Convair Garden Club Annual Rose Show
Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park, San Diego
Sun. – 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. – Free

Apr 15, 16

Point Loma Garden Club 12th Annual Standard Flower Show
Theme: "My Garden is the World"
Westminster Presbyterian Church, 3598 Talbot St., San Diego
Fri. 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. – Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. – Free

Apr 16, 17

Carlsbad Garden Club Annual Spring Show
Sponsors: Carlsbad Park & Recreation Department, Carlsbad
Chamber of Commerce, and the Plaza Camino Real Merchants Asso.
Plaza Camino Real (upper level), Hiway 78 & El Camino Real
Sat. Noon to 6:00 p.m. – Sun. 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. – Free

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COVER: Mexican Handflower Tree, *Chiranthodendron pentadatylon*. The botanical name is taken from the Greek words *cheir*—a hand; *anthos*—a flower; and *dendron*—a tree.

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Apr 16, 17	**Coronado Floral Asso. 58th Annual Standard Flower Show & Garden Tour** Theme: "Just for Fun" – Spreckels Park, Orange Ave. (between 6th & 7th) Sat. 1:15 to 5:30 p.m. – Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. – Donation $1 (Child 25¢)
Apr 16, 17	**Exotic Plant Society 5th Annual Show** Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park, San Diego Sat. & Sun. – 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. – Free
Apr 16, 17	**Rancho Santa Fe Garden Club Annual Flower & Plant Show** Theme: "All the World' a Stage" Rancho Santa Fe Garden Club, La Granada (Village Center) Sat. 1:00 to 5:30 p.m. – Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. – Free
Apr 16, 17	**San Diego Rose Society 56th Annual Rose Show** Balboa Park Club, Balboa Park, San Diego Sat. 2:00 to 7:00 p.m. – Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. – Donation: $1
Apr 19 **San Diego Floral Event**	**San Diego Floral Association Meeting** Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park, San Diego Spaghetti Dinner – Program: Herbs by Rosalie Garcia Tuesday – 6:30 p.m. – Reservations: 232-5762 (NLT Apr 15)
Apr 23	**La Jolla Garden Club "Garden Festival & PLant Sale"** San Diego Trust & Savings Bank parking lot, 7733 Girard St., La Jolla Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Apr 23, 24	**San Diego Bonsai Club 18th Annual Spring Show** Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park, San Diego Sat. & Sun.: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. – Free
Apr 23, 24	**Fallbrook Garden Club 52nd Annual Flower Show "Spring Enchantment"** Potter Jr. High School, Bower's Aud., 1743 Reche Rd., Fallbrook Sat. 2:00 to 8:00 p.m. – Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. – Free
Apr 30, May 1	**Dos Valles Garden Club Standard Flower Show "Country Crossroads"** Valley Center Community Church, 29105 Valley Center Road, Valley Center Sat. 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. – Sun. Noon - 5:00 p.m. – Free
Apr 30, May 1	**San Diego–Imperial Counties Iris Society 18th Spring Show "T'is Spring"** Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park, San Diego Sat. 12:30 to 5:00 p.m. – Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. – Free
Apr 30, May 1	**San Diego Epiphyllum Society "Green Thumb" Show** San Diego Wild Animal Park, San Pasqual Sat. & Sun.: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
May 1	**Quail Gardens Foundation "Fun & Festival" Show** Quail Gardens, Ecke Family Bldg., 230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. – Free

(SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION AND AFFILATE MEMBERS ON PAGE 59.)

GETTING FAT WITH ROSES

DICK STREEPER

'Seashell,' a hybrid tea, is a real beauty with heavily fragrant blooms. They have been variously described as peach and gold, salmon and apricot, and light orange with yellow reverse. The blooms may pass through all these exciting combinations and more.
All-American Rose Selections photo

EVERYTHING I LIKE is either expensive, fattening, or immoral. Have you ever registered this complaint? If you like roses, you are in luck. You can grow voluptuous roses under the most modest of circumstances. Here is how.

Roses make most of their growth in the spring. It is essential that you encourage growth in this period. You can expect the greatest surge of growth in March and April. The growth will tax the soil's ability to supply the necessary elements of growth. The soil should be kept constantly moist through the top 8 inches of soil and mulch. A 2- to 4-inch organic mulch conserves water and helps make nitrogen fertilizer available to the plant. Nitrogen is the key to superior plant growth.

If you want to feed your roses in the most economical way, use a concentrated, high analysis nitrogen fertilizer, such as urea or sulfate of ammonia, purchased in quantity. Purchased in a 60-pound sack from readily available agricultural supply houses, you will pay no more than ten cents a pound for the fertilizer. This is many times less expensive than special formulations. However, the bad news is that these types of fertilizer must be applied frequently in very low dosages. If you use sulfate of ammonia, apply 1 to 2 teaspoonfuls each week per plant. You can double this quantity and apply the fertilizer every other week. But if you apply more than about 1 tablespoon of sulfate of ammonia per square yard per application, or apply that quantity more often than every other week, you risk uneven plant growth, poor flower form, and root damage. Urea is about twice as concentrated a source of nitrogen as sulfate of ammonia and is a slower release fertilizer. Results of an application of sulfate of ammonia are apparent in about two weeks in warm weather. Results of urea

are seen in three to four weeks in warm weather. The key to really great plant growth is to supply fertilizer just short of the toxic limit in a constant high level. This can best be accomplished with a high analysis nitrogen fertilizer in a highly organic soil which will help to convert the organic nitrogen in urea to ammonium and nitrate nitrogen, or convert sulfate of ammonia into nitrate nitrogen. If you have a deep mulch, you need not scratch the fertilizer into the soil. Merely apply it mid-morning to soil moistened no more than 24 hours before and then apply the equivalent of about 1 inch of surface water. In the spring, be sure your plants get at least 2 inches of surface water each week and keep the soil surface constantly moist. Using this approach, about ten roses can be fertilized per minute. I fertilize about 300 roses in 10 minutes each week. I have an automatic watering system and thus, the only time consuming task in maintaining the garden is application of insecticides and fungicides.

If you want perfection, there is no substitute for complete and frequent spraying. If roses are sprayed each week, it is possible to completely eliminate all diseases and pests. To do so, you need a tank-type sprayer or comparable equipment (about $20 in cost at a minimum), a fungicide containing triforine applied at 1.3 times recommended dosage, a good systemic insecticide such as orthene (I recommend the powdered formulation applied per label instructions) and a good miticide. Occasionally add a formulation that contains a broad spectrum of trace elements and does not contain nitrate nitrogen. All of these chemicals can be combined and, with most alkaline water, a spreader is required. Test your spray by starting on the newest and glossiest of leaves. If there is any water beading whatsoever, remove pressure from your tank and add more spreader. I use about 1 tablespoonful of dishwashing detergent per 2 gallons of spray.

If you water, fertilize and spray as I recommend, you will have very fat and happy roses. If you are a conscientious gardener, your fat and happy roses will make you feel really good and you will have to concede that there is nothing very expensive, fattening, or immoral involved in this pleasure. □

Mr. Streeper, an attorney by profession, writes a weekly horticulture column for a local newspaper. His roses are his avocation and he wins blue ribbons in every show.

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BLOC HAZARD BRIC

THINK LIGHT NOT SHADE

SKIPPER COPE

Hint: Using a camera light meter can be helpful in determining areas of greater or lesser shade in your garden (or home).

PEOPLE USUALLY DEFINE shade as an area that receives no sunlight. To plants, however, shade does not mean the absence of sunlight but the quantity of illumination and heat they receive. To shade plants sunlight means an early morning sun, never a hot midday or afternoon sun, although, a late afternoon sun may be acceptable in coastal areas.

The reason the term "shade plants" was used was because in their native habitat these plants grew in a comparatively cool, moist environment. Whether from tropical, semitropical, or temperate zones they developed under and around trees and shrubs that protected them from the hot summer sun. It is true that numerous plants have developed in a crowded tropical forest, but most of these have reached for more light—witness the many orchids and bromeliads that grow in trees rather than on the dark forest floor.

A general rule of thumb is that flowering shade plants need more bright light than foliage plants, for maximum growth. Plants with darker flowers normally will accept more sun than pastels or whites. In coastal areas, where the air is fairly cool and moist, many will tolerate some direct sunlight. In hot dry inland areas the same plants will need more moisture and protection from the sun.

Even plants that do not fruit or flower will do better with some overhead light. If grown under low overhanging eaves, dense trees, or a solid overhead covering, they should have unobstructed light from at least three sides. There are only a comparatively few plants that will thrive in really dim light.

Glass intensifies the sun's rays; plants can easily become sunburned close to a glass windbreak. A white wall reflects both light and heat, while a dark wall absorbs them. Some plants, gardenias for example, revel in the reflected heat and light of a white wall while it would severely damage or kill others, such as ferns that prefer the moist coolness of a dark wall.

A prevailing wind, even though it may seem moist or humid, will reduce both heat and moisture. A spot that may appear ideal could be too cool and dry unless protected from the wind.

To recap let us define shade in terms of light and heat:

• Light Shade

Some morning sun, sunlight filtered by tall trees, or no sunlight with plenty of direct overhead and side light in an area that is fairly moist and warm.

• Moderate Shade

Sunlight well filtered by open trees or no sun with unobstructed overhead light and plenty of side light. For example, the shady side of a wall or building that receives no sun and stays cool and moist.

• Deep Shade

Very little light from either overhead or the sides, or under low overhanging eaves or dense conifers. (Consult your nurseryman for the select few that will flourish in this situation.) □

SHADE WHERE YOU WANT IT: Before you plant a shade tree, consider the path its shade will follow through all of the daylight hours. Shade from noon until four o'clock in the afternoon is desirable for living-room windows.

50 YEARS AGO

by Carol Greentree

PRESIDIO HILLS PARK
by Chauncey Jerabek

Few people realize what Mr. George W. Marston has done for the city of San Diego in developing the thirty acres that lie between the northwest borders of Mission Hills and Old Town. Here less than five years ago on several brown hills were only an old olive orchard, a number of eucalyptus trees, a sparse growth of half a dozen native shrubs, in the more barren spots a few cacti and one lone palm tree. . .

Today the landscape has changed. Mr. Marston has built a Spanish museum, a white-stucco building of beauty and picturesqueness, resembling a California mission along El Camino Real. . . [a description of the park's plants] . . .

Watching the bees and the butterflies flitting from blossom to blossom on the blue gums, I thought what a paradise this park is for the botanist and plant lover, with its one hundred thousand trees, shrubs and vines coming from every clime. What a thrill—how pleased a stranger from a foreign land would feel to see some plant from his native home. . . The people of San Diego have a right to be proud of this park not only because a civilization of California began here, but because one of our greatest benefactors has spent large sums of money and years of thought in the planting of this almost barren and desolate tract into the beautiful area it is today.

WISTERIA WEEK BEING PLANNED *March, 1933* . . .

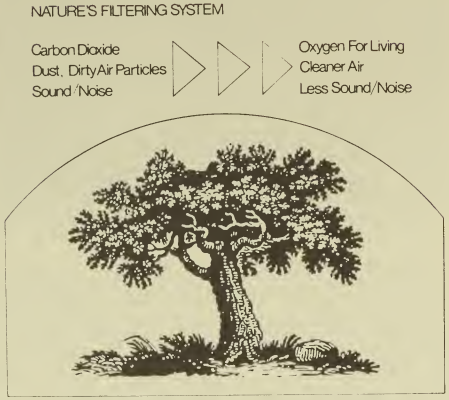
When the first wisteria buds show signs of blooming, the date for the annual Wisteria Tea given in the beautiful Rosecroft Gardens on Point Loma will be announced. The kindness and cooperation of Alfred Robinson and his wife have made it possible for the San Diego Floral Association to add this most delightful event to their garden calendar of achievements. Last spring over a thousand visitors took advantage of this new feature and so a similar week is being planned by committees for this year. Mr. Robinson has planned a display of cinerarias in his lathed gardens, which will be different from the lovely mauve primroses of last year, but which should be a beautiful accompaniment to the festoons of wisteria which so gracefully drape the acres of gardens.

ARBOR DAY

MARCH 7TH

TREES ARE ESSENTIAL

FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT



ALL TREES AND PLANTS ARE VITAL TO LIFE

TREE PLANTING FESTIVALS are probably as old as civilization. Whether called Arbor Week, Tree Holiday, Tree Festival, or Tree-Loving Week—they all are tree planting occasions throughout the world.

THE FIRST ARBOR DAY in the United States was celebrated in Nebraska on April 10, 1872. At this time one could wander for miles over the western plains without seeing a tree. They had been chopped down by the early settlers for homes, clearings, and firewood.

BY 1920, 45 states were celebrating Arbor Day. The dates differ in each state to coincide with proper planting seasons.

IN CALIFORNIA, Arbor Day was originally observed on March 7th on the birthday of Luther Burbank, the famous hybridizer of flowers, fruits, grains, vegetables, and trees. Since 1935, it has been the opening day of Conservation Week.

A.M.

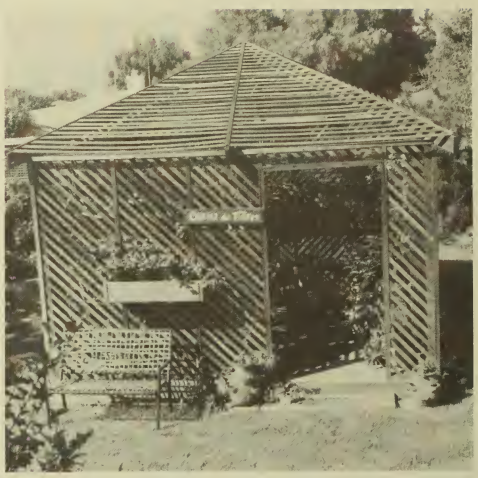
WHY A LATH HOUSE?

BETTY BAUHAN

THE LATH HOUSE is a permanent structure sometimes defined as a modified greenhouse. It is built with laths on the tops, sides, and ends. This permits the free circulation of air but reduces the amount of light. The flooring may be of raised boards or dirt, bare or covered, depending upon the type of structure. Laths, laid either crosswise or at right angles, are spaced usually from 1 inch to the width of the lath apart. More shade may be added by attaching shade cloth to the exposed side or sides. This also reduces the wind factor, which can be troublesome sometimes. In tropical, semi-tropical and temperate zones, where the intensity of the sun must be taken into consideration, the lath house is a valuable aid to both the commercial grower and the home gardener.

The design as well as the construction of a lath house is not standardized, but depends upon the purpose of the user. It can be simple and wholly functional or more elaborate and used as an outdoor garden room. It can be attached to another building or be an independent structure. If it has a peaked roof it is sometimes called a pagoda or gazebo. Its shelves and counters should be designed to accommodate various sizes of containers and planters with adequate provision for hanging baskets and pots. Plants labeled and arranged attractively within the structure add greatly to the enjoyment of both gardener and viewer.

The lath house, while often regarded as a facility for growing only shade plants (ferns, cymbidiums, begonias, philodendrons, tradescantia, and many plants grown mainly for their foliage), is not restricted to these. Many plants grown in sun or partial shade may be successfully adapted to lath



This 12-foot-square lath house provides more growing and experimenting space, as well as a delightful room for peace and quiet.
Robert Quade photo

Baskets of flowering plants are hung around the center post. Succulents and other plants are on a bench below.
Robert Quade photo

house growing conditions; succulents of all kinds, pelargoniums, impatiens, fuchias, bromiliads are a few of the many varieties which can be grown.

This extention to the garden not only provides more growing space but a pleasant place to work, a place for potting and repotting plants, and above all, a place for experimentation from seed to flower. Propagation by cuttings or from plant divisions and other horticultural experimentation, so often intriguing and exciting to both the novice and the experienced gardener, is encouraged in the atomosphere of the lath house. In no time at all you will be "hooked." □

Betty Bauhan is a hobbyist gardener. To her gardening is for fun. She is a past president of the La Jolla Village Garden Club.

Editor's note: Laths are available in several lengths in either redwood or treated wood. These withstand both weather and insect damage. Shade cloths, a plastic netting, is usually available in 6- and 12-foot widths in 55, 60, and 73 percent shade. The percentage number indicates the amount of sunlight eliminated.

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Botanical Building in Balboa Park, San Diego, California. Robinson's dream of a lath house for the 1915 exposition came true, although it was not large enough for the bands and promenades as he had envisioned. This portion of that building still stands for the enjoyment of visitors. Dewey deButts Thaisz photo

HOW TO BUILD AND USE A LATH HOUSE

A. D. ROBINSON, founder of the San Diego Floral Association and "California Garden" magazine, was one of the first San Diegans to construct and use a lath house. Also, he was instrumental in convincing the planners of the 1915 Panama-California Exposition to build in Balboa Park the largest lath house in the United States at that time. He wrote many articles for this magazine that are as timely today as they were when he wrote them. The following text is reprinted from "California Garden":

April 1911: ABOUT NOW THERE will probably be some of the readers of *California Garden* putting up lath houses, so that the following suggestions are offered. Build your lath house big enough to accommodate yourself and a few friends as well as the plants. Leave a protected side, preferable the eastern, open. Have a height of 12 feet if possible, and then your choice climbers can be inside instead of on the roof. Make a feature of your posts. Why not have 4 feet, or so, rough rocks and concrete to

accommodate ferns, etc. Run your lath on the roof north and south, to better distribute the sun's rays that filter through. Have a central dome if you can to accommodate tall things. Put in lots of hydrants; the hose in the lath house should be short and light. Have a little addition for potting and storage of all the tools and paraphernalia that are indispensable but very untidy.

October 1922: THIS TIME I want to take up lath house location and construction, and I should say that my interest is entirely with the lath house as a garden under special protection, a summer living room, an integral part of the home.

Location is of course largely dictated by the particular circumstances of the case, very large ones are only possible in big grounds and they involve too much care for the ordinary person. The passing of the horse and the banishment by the encroachment of restricted areas for the cow and the chicken, has left many a backyard open for something new.

. . .and hence the parallelogram of the average city lot, which leaves the backyard merely a smaller one than the lot, and frankly artistic treatment is a matter of plant growth so much more than plan, and to utilize all the space is the chief consideration as there is seldom too much of it . . . .Lots of yards have a big tree already in the center . . . .but if I am honest I must confess I would take that tree out, especially if a fig tree, for from long acquaintance with its kind I know he wants a whole backyard to himself and can make it uncomfortable if not impossible for anything else to stay there and live, and I would equally condemn a palm even a 'Cocos Plumosa.'

In consequence of the continual supply of moisture, fertilizer, etc., the lath house presents irresistible attraction to trees and shrubbery and these will send their roots long distances to reach the delectable land, therefore in locating lath houses this must be considered. Very little of our soil has much depth and the roots of things do not penetrate far, where this is the case a cement wall should form the foundation of all the outside walls and where this is not done it has been found necessary to dig a ditch and cut all roots poaching at rather frequent intervals.

In view of the fact that the flat roof of the old lath house was one of its most displeasing features it is good to know that there are many advantages to different levels of roof . . . .The roof could rise in three levels in tiers all the way round, which would give the highest space in the center and provide clear stories for air spaces, which experience has shown allow currents of air to carry off the heat as it penetrates the roof . . . .This roof can be supported upon heavy timbers with projecting beams that will give a pergola effect not at all displeasing.

April 1911: THE SUN IS gaining power everyday and when the north wind blows evaporation is very rapid. See that potted things and hanging baskets do not suffer for moisture. A rain that will wet the ground for a couple of inches or more will often leave pots and baskets perfectly dry. Once either of these really dry out, they must be submerged in a vessel of water to get moist all over again, and it really seems that with plants a drying out habit can be formed.

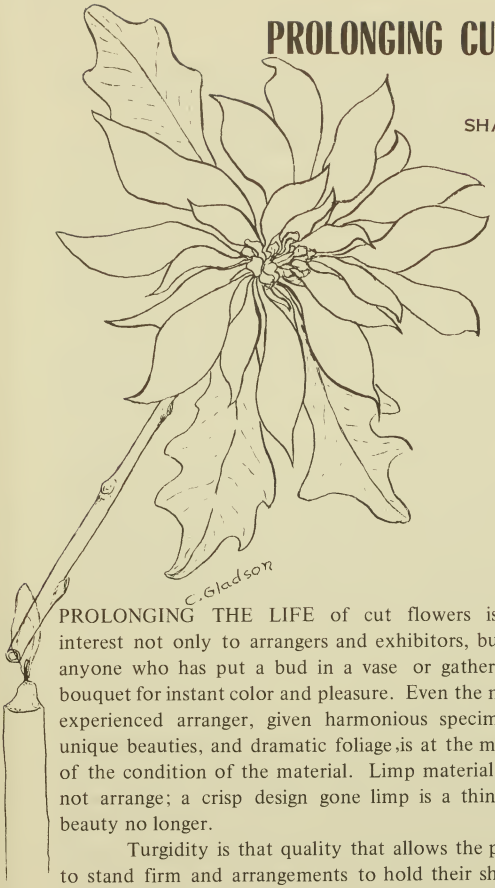
The warmer nights will bring out the slugs and the other plant enemies to riot among the tender fronds of the pushing ferns. Visit the lath house with a light, a miner's electric lamp is excellent, and catch the villians in the act. Slugging is most unpleasant but most necessary, and conditions that make for good fern growth invite a slug population. A.M.

AN EXPERIENCED GARDENER'S HINT

Pots sitting on the ground are particularly attractive to slugs. When preparing the pot for planting, instead of shard, completely stuff the drainage hole with a tightly rolled ball made from old nylon stockings. This will prevent the slugs from entering through the hole and damaging the roots, but will allow proper drainage.

PROLONGING CUT FLOWERS LONGEVITY

SHARON SIEGAN



Charring the cut stem of a poinsettia or other flowers whose stems exude a sap when cut, is one trick to effect an immediate stem seal. Wrap a piece of paper around the foliage and flowers, if necessary, to prevent possible damage from the heat. (Drawing by *Carol Gladson*)

PROLONGING THE LIFE of cut flowers is of interest not only to arrangers and exhibitors, but to anyone who has put a bud in a vase or gathered a bouquet for instant color and pleasure. Even the most experienced arranger, given harmonious specimens, unique beauties, and dramatic foliage, is at the mercy of the condition of the material. Limp material will not arrange; a crisp design gone limp is a thing of beauty no longer.

Turgidity is that quality that allows the plant to stand firm and arrangements to hold their shape. It is the mark of substance, freshness, and vigor, but how do we insure turgidity?

• Start With Turgid Material

Pick only mature foliage; it has substance. Delicate new growth, charming as it looks, will wilt.

• Cut Material While It Is Turgid

While growing, plants lose moisture through transpiration. Like people, plants sweat through their stomata or leaf openings. The sun is the villian, so pick all material early in the morning, on overcast days, or late enough so that the plant has restored its moisture loss.

• Minimize Moisture Loss When Cutting Material

Once cut, moisture is lost through the stem. Such moisture can be restored so long as the water tubes within the stem end remain open. If air bubbles develop, they will close off these tubes, preventing restoration. In order to minimize this trauma:

Carry a pail of cold water into the garden, and after cutting, plunge each flower up to its neck.

To avoid injuring delicate blooms (e.g. roses), wrap a wet newspaper collar or separator below each flower head.

Strip off all the lower leaves that will not be needed later for display and discard. Decomposed leaves foul the water.

Recut, on a wide angle, all stems under water. Cutting under water prevents air pockets, and the wide-angle cut increases the surface area for absorption.

Now set the bucket (or another one of cold water into which you have transferred the prepared material) into a cool, non-drafty, preferably dark area, and let all of the material deep soak, overnight, if possible.

The general treatment recommended above is intended to slow down metabolism so that the aging process is retarded. The cool darkness inhibits the opening of buds, slowing down maturation.

This treatment is not recommended for floral material that has been abused, is tired, or wilted from loss of sustenance. Such material requires a quick fix. Again, it is like the person suffering from heat exhaustion and dehydration. The restoration tonic requires placing this plant material in warm, even hot water while recutting stems. The heat of the water will induce metabolism, with the warm water rising

rapidly into the open stem. A few pin pricks at the top of the stem will allow air to escape, and the addition of 1 teaspoonful of sugar per quart of water will restore some of the lost nutrients.

Once the material has regained its turgidity (a matter of hours), place it in cool water and let soak overnight.

Note: The quick fix is no aid to material past its prime. If flowers have opened and faded, discard them; the aging process cannot be reversed.

Almost all floral material will benefit from the general treatment recommended above. Certain kinds, such as "bleeders" require specialized treatment, and others will have their longevity improved by additives. The rest of this article will be devoted to these considerations for flowers and foliage.

• Foliage Treatment

Foliage can be grouped as succulent (tender) or woody stemmed. Frequently the same plant passes through the tender to the woody stem. Since water penetration is difficult through woody stems, it is advisable to prepare them by smashing, slitting, or debarking the last two to three inches of stem and then crosscutting the ends. This will permit a greater surface for water intake when they are given their overnight soaking.

Although evergreen foliage is woody stemmed (unless very young), it normally loses so little water that it can survive for days to weeks with minimal treatment. Just douse the branches in a sudsy bath, swish them clean in clear water, shaking off the excess droplets. They can then be wrapped in plastic to be used as needed. If they will be subjected to extreme conditions (out of water, in sun, etc.) they should be conditioned. This can be done by standing stems, that have been crosscut, in hot water in which 1 teaspoonful of glycerine per quart has been added. Branches can remain overnight in the cooling water.

Cactus and succulents are so adept at surviving drought that they can be kept indefinitely. Pinioned on a needlepoint holder, they will frequently root. Even without water, they hold up for long periods, sometimes sending out aerial roots to capture any stray moisture.

Other tender stemmed plants such as aralia, aucuba, ivy, monstera, aspidistra, and sanseveria, with tough leathery leaves, have also learned to conserve moisture. Soak them overnight and arrange at will. They will last for days to weeks, requiring nothing more than an occasional change of water.

Unlike the above, many of the large leaves wilt rapidly when cut. Hosta, calla, begonia, acanthus, ligularia, castor bean, and others benefit from having their stems cut under water. But more importantly, their entire leaf surface should be submerged for 24 hours in a tub or basin of cold water. These leaves lose excessive moisture from their broad surfaces; fortunately they soak up moisture in the same way.

Acanthus presents a special problem in that whenever the stem is pierced, the leaf will collapse. Avoid needlepoint holders or other mechanics that may bruise the stem.

Bamboo, perhaps because of its special hollow stem construction, also requires a different approach to preservation. Dipping 2 to 3 inches of the stem in hot alcohol or boiling vinegar for about two minutes, followed by an overnight soak in cold water, is recommended. Presumably the hot fumes rise up through the woody segments, allowing the water to follow.

• Spathe Preservation

Anthuriums, callas, and strelitzias have one thing in common; it is their spathe or colored bract, which gives the flower form. This is also why they are more wilt resistant. All three of these flowers survive remarkably well with only a deep overnight soak. But anthuriums in particular, benefit greatly from having their entire spathe submerged, just as with the large leaf treatment recommended above. With such hardening, anthuriums can last for weeks.

• Bleeders

Bleeders are traditionally the most difficult material to preserve. Poinsettias, other euphorbias, and the various flowers such as hydrangeas, whose stems exude a sap when cut, require heroic efforts. The trick is to effect an immediate stem seal. Numerous methods, all caustic, have been recommended—singly and in combination. They are:

Charring the end of the stem over a flame; a votive candle or an alcohol burner that is used under a chaffing dish works well.

Rubbing salt on the cut end.

Standing the stems in about 2 inches of boiling water or boiling vinegar for 2 to 3 minutes. Cover the foliage and flowers with newspaper to prevent damage from the steam. Alternately, standing them in 10 percent hydrochloric acid or peppermint oil (¼ teaspoon of oil of essence per quart of water) solution.

Cauterizing stems in alcohol; the length of time is inversely proportional to the strength of solution. Esther Hamel, in her newly revised *Encyclopedia of Judging and Exhibiting*, suggests flaming alcohol in a shallow dish or lid so that stems will quickly seal (30 to 45 seconds) without damaging foliage or petals. [Ed. note: Use caution when using this method.]

Because sap will ooze from any stem puncture, it is necessary to avoid piercing the stem after this treatment. Leaves should be removed 2 to 3 days prior to cutting the flowers so that they will naturally scar over. If they come off after cutting, the spot must be sealed with alcohol or another of the above agents.

Curiously the cauterizing treatments, with variations, are not reserved for bleeders. Almost any plant material, no matter how well it lasts with overnight soaking, has been a candidate for one or another of these exotic treatments. So if you wish to experiment with improving the longevity of a plant, try a stem seal.

• Final Cautions

After all of the floral material has been properly conditioned, there are still certain pitfalls that could foil longevity. The first is cleanliness. All mechanics and containers should be clean. If you have converted a coffee or other tin can, it should be rust-proof. (Use a water sealer if it isn't.)

Next is water; never use softened water. The sodium in it will induce reverse osmosis and the material will wilt.

Do add a few drops of chlorine bleach or vinegar to the water. This will retard bacterial growth, keeping the water and floral material fresh longer.

Finally, if you have an old cigarette, empty the tobacco into your water. Nicotine acts as a preservative and is especially effective with ferns and greenery.

Now you can sit back and enjoy your flowers. □

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ORCHIDS ON POSTAGE STAMPS

BEN HARDY

ONE OF THE pleasing sidelines of my interest in growing orchids is the philatelic collection I have accumulated over the years. Many countries have issued beautiful stamps featuring orchid blooms, though I must admit some few are poor artistic efforts. The more than 300 stamps I have collected make a beautiful display. In most cases native species orchids have been portrayed on the issuing country's stamps. In 1969, the United States was among the countries featuring indigenous orchids with a portrayal of *Cypripedium reginae*. The Central and South American countries have been the most prolific in producing these colorful stamps, understandably, as theirs are the prettiest and the most flambouyant. Malaysia takes the credit for issuing the most stamps with orchids, the same central picture being used in the sets for each state.

There is an interesting story about the preparation of the first issue from the new nation of Vanuatu (formerly the New Hebrides, a group of islands northeast of Australia within a triangle created by the Solomon Islands, Fiji, and New Caledonia). Mr. G. Hermon Slade, who resides in Vila on the island of Efate, is renowned for his extensive knowledge and active interest in the species of the South Pacific area. Mr. Slade played a big part in getting the authorities of this new nation to depict some of their indigenous orchids on their first stamp issue. He selected the species, which represented an attractive cross-section of Vanuatu genera, with the assistance of a local nurseryman, Mr. Lambert. The Crown Agents in London, England, were given the task of creating the drawings; artist Jennifer Toombs did the actual art work. They worked closely with Kew Gardens on the botanical accuracy and identification of the chosen species. While researching the names of the orchids it was discovered that one of the selected species had never been described and named before, so Dr. P. J. Cribb and Dr. J. J. Wood of Kew Gardens chose to name the plant *Dendrobium sladei*. It is on the vt. 10 stamp.

The values on the depicted stamps are in vatus, the unit of this new nation's currency. One vatu is equal to one Australian cent or 1.2 cents U.S. currency. Eight of the fourteen stamps in the issue depict the dendrobium species. A description of each stamp depicted follows:

VT1 *Flickeringia comata*. This unusual flower with its one-day blooming period is an appropriate choice for the one vatu value stamp. It is closely related to the dendrobiums.

VT2 *Calanthe triplicata*. It is one of the most widely distributed of all species; a terrestrial ranging from China, through India, Malaysia, Australia, and into the island nations of the South Pacific.

VT10 *Dendrobium sladei*. Named in honor of the man responsible for selecting the plants for this premier stamp issue. The flowers last for less than a day. As the foliage is similar to other dendrobiums, this probably accounts for the long period it was not recognized.

VT15 *D. mohlianum*. The range of this brilliant orange-flowered orchid is from the cooler high elevations of Fiji through Vanuatu to Papua, New Guinea.

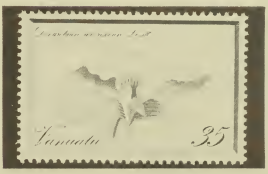
VT20 *D. macrophyllum*. This fuzzy-flowered plant extends over much the same range as the above dendrobium.

VT25 *D. purpureum*. This species has pinkish-lilac blooms in clusters. The plant is closely related to *D. bracteosum* of Papua.

VT30 *Robiquetia mimus*. A small genus, thought to be indigenous to Vanuatu, is widely distributed throughout Asia. The

Vanuatu

15 JUNE 1982 — First issue of postage stamps from this new nation. *Stamps courtesy of John Elholm.*



reddish-lavender flowers are in a bottle-brush type pendulous cluster.

VT35 *D. mooreanum*. Finely candy-striped flowers distinguish this species found only in the Solomons and Vanuatu.

VT45 *Spathoglottis plicata*. It usually grows in large clumps and there is great variation in the flower color which ranges through white to pinks, manuves, purples, and yellows. It is found from Malaysia through Sumatra, the Philippines, and the Pacific Islands, and is one of the most widely spread of the species depicted.

VT50 *D. seemannii*. This species is very closely related to and often confused with the Australian *D. teretifolium*.

VT75 *D. conanthum*. This orchid is in the section usually referred to as the Antelope type because of its twisted petals. The brown-flowered jewel is a widespread species found from Papua, New Guinea on north to Fiji.

VT100 *D. macranthum*. Although this species does not have the prominent twist to its petals, it is classified in the same section as the above dendrobium. It has a confined distribution centered in Vanuatu.

VT200 *Coelogyne lamellata*. This is a mountain-ridge dweller that confines its growing area to the tree tops. It usually bears three to five flowers on a stem, which open one at a time.

VT500 *Bulbophyllum longiscarpum*. This plant with a quaint dark reddish-brown flower has a limited distribution, but is a member of the largest genus in Orchidaceae.

One of the delights of botanical stamp collecting is the "ever blooming" beauty of these "scraps of paper"—no hot house needed, no fertilizing, no watering, no repotting. Just take the album from the shelf, relax in an easy chair and regale yourself.

Orchids are not the only botanical species on stamps. Many species and some hybrids of a variety of genera have been featured over the years. In 1980, the United States depicted four hybrids; a rose, a camellia, a dahlia, and a lily. An even more attractive set was issued in October 1981, featuring four native desert plants; *Agave deserti, Opuntia basilaris, Cereus giganteus*, and *Ferrocactus wislizeni*. Although the flower was not the main attraction of the stamp, the 1982 State Bird and Flower set did show the state flower of each of the 50 states. Also in 1982, another rose stamp was issued to honor the 50th Anniversary of the International Peace Garden. There are others, but they are too numerous to list here.

Collecting these colorful stamps can be a very interesting hobby. Classifying and sorting them can fill your evenings in preference to the bleak offerings on the "boob-tube" and you have a valuable collection to pass on to the next generation. □

Stamps courtesy of John Elholm.

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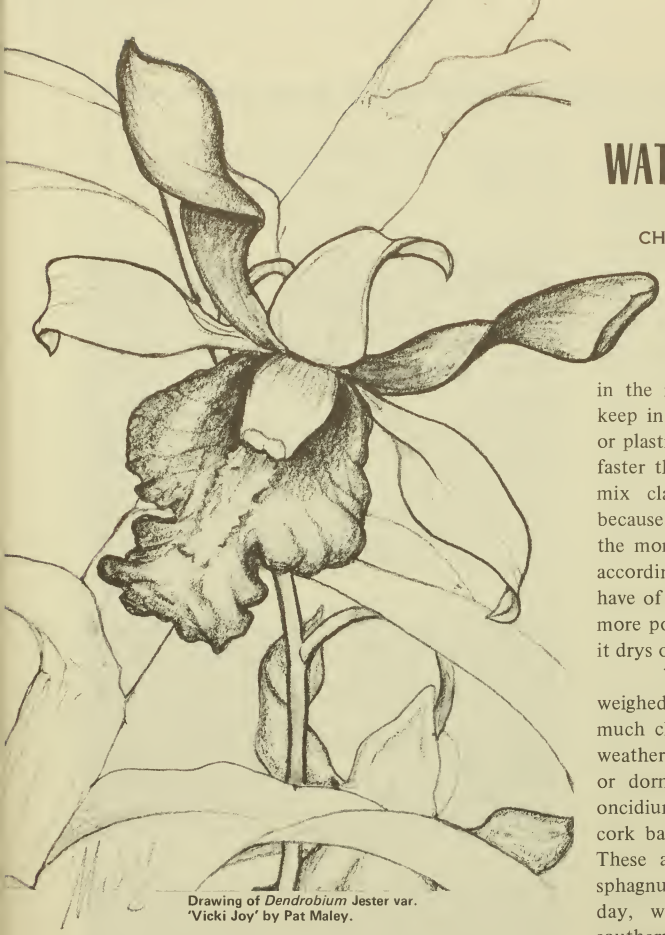

Drawing of *Dendrobium* Jester var. 'Vicki Joy' by Pat Maley.

THE MOST COMMON question asked of us is, "How often do you water your orchids?" Though it sounds too simplistic and facetious, the only correct answer is, "When they need it." You can not water your plants by the calendar. There are too many factors involved to try to tell someone how often they should water their orchid plants. There are more orchid plants (and house plants for that matter) that are exterminated by overwatering than by any other single cause.

One of the first factors to take into consideration is the locality. A hobbyist growing plants along the coastal area with its high atmospheric humidity would certainly not need to water as often as we do in the much drier inland area. The next factor to keep in mind is the kind of pots you are using, clay or plastic. Clay pots will dry out two to three times faster than plastic ones. It is a wise practice not to mix clay and plastic pots on the same bench, because of their different drying characteristics. And, the more you can keep your potted plants separate according to the size of the pots, the less chance you have of overwatering the larger pots. Remember, the more potting mix mass you have in a pot, the slower it drys out.

Weather is also a very important factor to be weighed. How much humidity is in the air? How much cloudy overcast have you been having? Cold weather versus hot weather. Do the plants like a rest or dormant period? We grow a lot of variegata oncidiums and species orchids on fern slabs and on cork bark out-of-doors during the summer and fall. These are mounted with only a small amount of sphagnum moss around their roots. When it is a clear day, we water them every morning. Here in southern California we sometimes experience dry hot windy conditions where the humidity will drop to less than 10 percent with the high heat. When that happens we often water them every hour or so during the daylight hours that this condition exists, sometimes for several days.

The potting mix used is another determining factor, along with its age. One thing to watch when watering, is to see if the water is clear when it runs out of the bottom of the pot. If it starts out muddy and slow, more than likely the potting mix has broken down and needs to be replaced. A decomposed potting mix holds too much water and will rot the roots of your plant.

Looks can be very deceiving. The top of the potting mix and possibly the first inch or so will often look dry. Most of the roots will be much

deeper in the pot than that. We like to use long plastic plant labels that project down into the potting mix about 2½ inches. When we pull the plant label out of the pot and the bottom tip of the label feels moist, we know that the plant does not need to be watered. Also, with a little practice one can lift the pot and the weight of it will indicate if watering is necessary.

In our area with our frightfully "hard" water, leaching out the salts is recommended. The best way to leach is to water plants thoroughly in the morning, then repeat it the same afternoon. The heavy watering in the morning will saturate and loosen the salts, when you repeat the process in the afternoon, you will wash out a lot more of the salt deposits. Cymbidiums, in particular, should benefit from this treatment because of the denser potting mix normally used for them. It is recommended that this leaching be done about every three months.

So with all of the above very variable factors to consider, the best time to water is still "When they need it"! □

Charles Fouquette and **Ben Hardy** are both members of the San Diego County Orchid Society and have a combined orchid growing experience of over 30 years. They are presently owners of a small orchid nursery.

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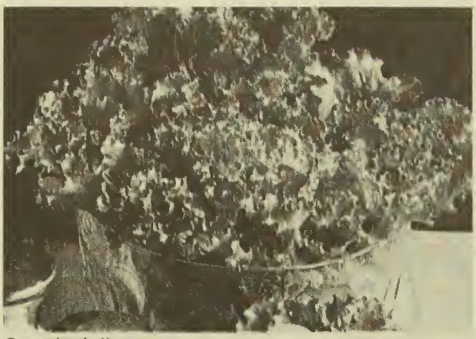

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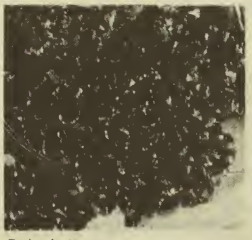

Ruby Lettuce

Great Lakes Lettuce

Royal Oak Leaf Lettuce—heat-resistant

Lettuse is the most popular salad vegetable. Leaf lettuces have pale green, dark green, and even red leaves that are decorative as borders in the garden.

ONE CAN BE "driven up the wall" by a new seed catalog with all its new hybrids, as well as the old ones, for all vegetables are hybrids now. What a collection there is! No one can plant all of them, so choosing the few one can grow is what takes some difficult decision making. As gardening spaces grow smaller or even get down to pots, one finds that the plantsmen and hybridizers are thinking of the small-space gardener. They are creating with these spaces in mind. Read the catalog in its fine print. and choose the best for your space.

The salad vegetables are many now, for people are learning to eat nearly all vegetables raw whipped up with delectable dressings. The lettuces, tomatoes, and cucumbers top the list, and there are new hybrids for all of them.

Lettuces lead the list of salad vegetables. Many salads have nothing else but sliced, chopped, or torn lettuce leaves tossed with olive oil and rice vinegar or lemon juice and seasoned salt. Although lettuces are naturally cool weather plants, there are some that tolerate heat and last through southern California summers and falls. They are not at their best during that season, but they do lack the bitterness and sort of toughness that the usual lettuce has.

The most popular lettuce is one that makes a firm crisp head. We often call it 'Iceberg,' but a new hybrid named 'Mission' makes a crisp head in 74 days. Even when the weather turns hot, it is slow to bolt or send up a seed stem. There are other varieties like 'Butter King' that make a soft head and are also slow to bolt. One called 'Slo-Bolt' is the fastest to develop; in 48 days it makes a soft, crisp, loose head.

Other leaf lettuces grow fast and can be thinned and eaten when they are no more than 3 inches high. They can have pale green, dark green, and even red leaves that are decorative and pleasing to children who like them in sandwiches. They even like to grow them for they germinate quickly and can be thinned.

The 'Cos' or romaines are a standby in our markets, retaining much of their sweetness and freshness over a long period—two or three weeks. It takes about 70 days for them to develop their long, upright heads. Two new varieties are the 'Valmaine' and 'Barcarole.' Both stand heat, but 'Barcarole' is the finer textured.

Next to lettuce, the tomato is the most

If one has never picked a red and firm tomato from the vine, one does not know what a really good tomato tastes like.

cherished salad vegetable. If one has never picked it red and firm from the vine, one does not know what a really good tomato tastes like. The ones we buy in the markets are often almost tasteless. The tomato is a sun-loving fruit which we call a vegetable. It must ripen in the hot sun and be grown in a rich, loose soil that is amply moist. Our cool, foggy coast is not the natural home for the tomato. The best ones I have grown were planted against a south-facing brick wall which retained heat much of the day. Tomatoes have shallow roots, but often grow tall vines which need to be staked or confined in wire cages to grow well. The plants need moisture, but the fruit will rot on the moist ground unless the vines are staked.

The small "wild" ones in the South came up in the cotton fields. My grandmother had grown up in the days when tomatoes were grown as ornamentals and not eaten, and she never would eat them until they were cooked. Less than a 100 years ago many people in the United States believed tomatoes to be poisonous; they are in the nightshade family, many of which are deadly poisonous. To me the plant and leaves of the tomato do have a sort of "poisonous aroma" and they are poisonous, causing a rash to many who handle the plants without gloves. I have never heard the story of who the first adventurous person was who ate the first tomato, but it is known that they were used as food in several European countries by the mid-1700's.

Today there are dozens of varieties of tomatoes ranging in sizes from not larger than a grape to a 5-inch plate. One must make a choice. Of the new hybrids, I have chosen one small, one medium, and one large. One small variety called 'Minibel,' when properly grown and staked can furnish gallons of small, sweet, thin-skinned tomatoes for months from one plant. They are sweeter than the larger ones or the small basket varieties we can buy at the market at up to one dollar a basket. 'Minibel' won't make one's mouth sore even if a quart is eaten. Grown in a hanging basket, it will cascade 2 or 3 feet and be an ornament to any balcony.

'Better Boy' is recommended for its fine flavor and heavy fruiting–as many as 280 fruits on one plant. It will produce medium sized fruits, singly and in clusters.

'Whooper' is the treasured one among the "show off" gardeners. It is bred to be tough and to resist all of the main enemies of the tomato, root knot, nematodes, tobacco mosaic, and wilt. It will ripen even in cloudy weather. This one will grow to 5 inches in diameter and be firm, round, and red.

Two or three plants of these three will fill the needs of the average gardener. But if one wants to be exotic, there are pink, yellow, and white tomatoes that are pretty, but lack the acid and taste of red ones.

The other salad vegetable relished by many is the cucumber. I marvel that anyone ever grows good ones. No other vegetable is subject to more hazards and diseases than the crisp cool cucumber. If the weather is too hot, the leaves curl up and die. If it is too cool, they do not grow, but turn yellow and die. In between these extremes all kinds of diseases can cause mildew, spots, and the leaves to fall off. Most varieties grow on vines and do better if they are trained up on a wire cage. This keeps the vines off the moist soil which often has bacteria that effect them.

A new one, 'Burpless Bush' is not a vine, but a compact bush plant that comes on early and produces long, up to 12 inches, straight fruits with thin skins. The flesh is firm, juicy and nearly seedless, and it does not need peeling. This compact cucumber is adapted to pot growing.

In the markets I find the pickling cucumbers

'Burpless Bush' combines space-saving habit with burpless cucumber quality.

are the best buy. They are those 3-inch, knotty, pale greenish ones that are crisp and better keeping than the long green ones that have to be peeled. One can grow them also, but they are vining. Some of them are listed as burpless, a quality only recently bred into cucumbers so they are more easily digested.

Starting seeds in the house in good potting mix is cheaper than buying plants, and one gets a better selection. When buying vegetable seeds, read the fine print, and pay attention to the directions for planting and growing.

Good growing! □

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that the wild species of tomatoes originated in the Peru-Ecuador-Bolivia area of South America? Cultivated forms were developed before Columbus in Mexico and possibly in Central and South America. Definite records are lacking but evidence indicates that the tomato reached Europe from Mexico. The first definite description, in Italy in 1554, carried the common name 'pomi d'oro,' or apple of gold. Thus, the first form known to Europeans was yellow.

There is no record of the culture of tomatoes in the United States until Thomas Jefferson grew them in 1781. They were used as food in Louisana as early as 1812 but not in the northeastern states until about 1838. A.M.

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BOOK REVIEWS

Reviewed by RUSSELL MACFALL

Flowering Plants in the Landscape, edited by Mildred E. Mathias. University of California Press, Berkeley, CA 94720, 1982, 254 pages, $16.95.

Without disparaging the many other books about California floriculture, this book could be honestly described as the most generally useful and certainly one of the most attractive. As is often true of a useful book, it has grown to its present stature out of a series of booklets and then two full editions over the last nine years of which is a completely revised third edition.

Mildred Mathias, emeritus professor of botany at the University of California, Los Angeles, has built on the work of Ralph D. Cornell, who took most of the excellent photographs, and Theodore Payne, who became the authority on our native flowering plants. Interestingly enough, both men were active in the development of Torrey Pines Park as well as many other major gardens in the state.

The text is divided into trees, shrubs, vines, and flowering plants, and a section on growing native California plants, with a wealth of appendices and bibliography. The photographs speak so eloquently that they would talk the devil himself into becoming a happy gardener. □

The Wildflowers of Wilson's Promontory National Park, by J. Ros. Garnet. Lothian Publishing Company, Pty, 1971, 192 pages, $7.95.

Wilson's Promontory is a 200-square-mile projection from the Australian continent toward Tasmania. With some 710 native flowering plants, ferns, and mosses it is a favorite vacation spot for the nearby metropolis of Melbourne. The author, secretary of the Victornian National Parks Association, has described the history of the region, its botanical areas in some detail, and provided an extensive description of the plants themselves with a modest amount of illustration.

Distributed by International Scholarly Book Service, Inc., P. O. Box 1632, Beaverton, OR 97075.□

Carnations, by Steven Bailey. Blandford Press, 1982. For sale in the United States by Sterling Publishing Company, 2 Park Ave., New York, NY 10016, 215 pages, $17.50.

Steven Bailey has been growing carnations for 50 years in England and has brought together in this revised edition the wisdom he has accumulated in those decades about perpetual-flowering carnations, border carnations, and pinks. Highly practical advice on greenhouses, propagation, diseases, insect pests, hybridization, and exhibiting makes up the substance of the book, together with luscious color photographs of some 60 species. □

Received: *Habitat*, issues on living in the country and living in the city. Published at Barcelona, Spain, in French, Spanish, and English in each issue. Soft cover, magazine format, freely illustrated in color, 181 pages. Distributed by International Scholarly Book Service, Inc., P. O. Box 1632, Beaverton, OR 97075. □

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NOW IS THE TIME

compiled by PENNY BUNKER

A CULTURAL CALENDAR OF CARE FROM OUR AFFILIATES

BEGONIAS MARGARET LEE

Now is the time–

- to start new plants from cuttings, leaves, or seeds.
- to start in March tuberous begonias in sprouting medium–moistened leaf mold, and sand; keep barely moist and in a warm place. Pot those started earlier, if ready, in a 9-inch pot.
- to protect roots with a mulch.
- to clean all pots and plantings of dead wood, leaves, and old blooms.
- to cut back plants when new growth appears; prune no more than 1/3 of the plant at one time to avoid shock.
- to start feeding–give ¼ strength of any good all-purpose plant food if feeding once a week; ½ strength if twice a month; or full strength if once a month.
- to keep up a watering program if not enough rain. Plants should be moist but not wet.

BONSAI DR. HERBERT MARKOWITZ

Now is the time–

- to watch watering program if there is insufficient rain.
- to repot plants; shape to conform to the containers.
- to remember deciduous flowering plants need repotting every year, except quince. Conifers may go 3 to 5 years.
- to graft deciduous plants.
- to add small amounts of chelated iron or acidifying preparations to correct alkaline (salt) buildup.

BROMELIADS JOYCE BREHM

Now is the time–

- to check for snails and slugs; distribute bait around plants, not in the cups.
- to begin repotting of plants that have outgrown their containers.
- to begin removal of pups that are at least 1/3 the size of the mother plant.
- to begin a regular fertilization schedule using ¼ strength balanced fertilizer.
- to keep cups cleared of rotting debris.
- to remember that insufficient light will keep the gorgeous colors from appearing in the leaves. If you have pale plants, increase the light.

CACTI & SUCCULENTS VERNA PASEK

Now is the time–

- to start watering and fertilizing as new growth appears.
- to protect delicate succulents from aphids which have been evident, especially on echeverias, crassulas, and the aeoniums. Rubbing alcohol (diluted or full strength) applied with a Q-tip will help eliminate the infestation if not too heavy.
- to propagate by divisions or cuttings. Protect from sun and drafts after surgery. Do not overwater.
- to move plants showing signs of overcrowding. Mature plants send out roots several feet making it necessary to root-prune before moving to prevent uprooting smaller plants.
- to identify unmarked mammalarias by their blooms.

CAMELLIAS BENJAMIN BERRY

Now is the time–

- to maintain a regular watering program.
- to transplant those plants not done last month.
- to use only 1/3 strength fertilizer, if needed now.
- to protect late blooming varieties from hot sun as much as possible.
- to maintain a regular spray program and dust

with chlordane under and around plants to discourage leaf beetles.
- to remember not to fertilize a newly transplanted bush, but water well and use vitamin B1 solution.
- to feed iron every other month to promote healthy deep green foliage.

DAHLIAS **ABE JANZEN**

Now is the time—
- to remove tubers from storage and place in sprouting medium—use vermiculite, sand, or other propagating material. Place in a warm location to sprout and keep moist.
- to prepare planting area by broadcasting 2½ pounds of super-phosphate and 2½ pounds sulphate of potash for each 100 square feet of ground. Fork into soil and level.
- to plant sprouted tubers after two or three weeks. Dig hole 6 inches deep, mix in bone meal, then place tuber on its side, with sprout up, and 2 inches from a stake.
- to cover with 2 inches of soil and moisten, but do not keep too wet.
- to protect from snails.

EPIPHYLLUMS (Orchid Cacti) **FRANK GRANATOWSKI**

Now is the time—
- to maintain good grooming by removal of dead, spindly, and unsightly branches.
- to remove dead leaves and debris from containers, eliminating a haven for harmful pests and allowing free flow of oxygen to the soil and root system.
- to remove scale residue clinging to outside of containers.
- to give mature plants a final feeding of nitrogen-free fertilizer, such as Bloom-Builder or Hi Bloom, to promote healthy buds and blooms.
- to watch new buds and blooms for aphids and ants attracted by the nectar; if necessary, insecticides such as Orthene and malathion may be used. Carefully read and follow directions on the label.
- to refrain from relocating plants once buds have begun to form.
- to coddle the new seedlings which have developed in the past year.
- to bait for snails. A few granules of Sluggeta have proved effective when placed at the base of plants, leaving little or no residue.
- to gather and store rain water for future use. Store in opaque containers to avoid buildup of algae. A few drops of insecticide in rain barrels will inhibit wrigglers (larvae).

FERNS **RAY SODOMKA**

Now is the time—
- to fertilize with high nitrogen liquid or pellets.
- to remove dead fronds.
- to catch rain water to use on plants in covered areas.
- to divide, repot, or add leaf mold to those plants needing it.
- to spray for aphids and scale.
- to plant spore.

FUCHSIAS **WILLIAM SELBY**

Now is the time—
- to place cuttings, started during the winter, into larger containers.
- to continue to prune and shape plants. Use a clean sharp pair of shears and snip the long branches to within one or two nodes of the container.
- to continue taking cuttings.
- to clean up fallen leaves, blossoms, and trash around plants and containers.
- to watch frostbitten plants—they may recover. Do not prune until new growth appears, then prune to the new growth.
- to maintain a good watering schedule—remember plants like to be moist but not wet.
- to fertilize growing plants at this time; do not feed newly repotted cuttings for at least two weeks.
- to start a regular fertilizing program, essential for lush growth and strong stems.
- to keep new growth pinched back, forcing them to branch and make the plant bushy.

GERANIUMS **CAROL ROLLER**

Now is the time—
- to water thoroughly, when plants become somewhat dry. All excess water must drain away. Keep foliage as dry as possible.
- to continue feeding a balanced fertilizer dissolved in water. Use less than the manufacturer's recommended strength every 5th watering or as often as needed to keep the plants growing well.
- to continue a pest control and disease prevention program using products according to manufacturer's directions.
- to selectively prune and pinch zonals and ivies for future bloom. Avoid cutting regals because the flowers will be lost by pruning at this time.
- to remove old discolored leaves and flowers.
- to continue to rotate plants in order to produce well-shaped plants.

GESNERIADS (African violets belong to this family) MIKE LUDWIG

Now is the time—

to clean up the growing area to give plants a fresh start. Trim, repot, and check for pests. Discard old leaves and flowers.

to take cuttings when trimming.

to spray for mildew and pests that may be making their spring debut.

to bait for snails and slugs.

to water and fertilize more as new active growth appears.

to fertilize with trace elements in April plants that were not repotted. This replaces elements used by plant and lost in watering.

to transplant seedlings into fresh soil or planting mix.

to pot African violets in container 1/3 the size of plant. (A 12-inch plant should be in a 4-inch pot.) Place on a regular feeding—feed ¼ strength every time you water.

IRISES SAN DIEGO–IMPERIAL COUNTIES IRIS SOCIETY

Now is the time—

to start a feeding program with low nitrogen, all purpose, or liquid fish fertilizer.

to clean beds and keep weeds under control.

to water regularly if not enough rain.

to watch for pests, systemic sprays applied as a drench will usually free irises of aphids and thrips.

to give Japanese and Louisiana irises acid food; a camellia-type fertilizer may be used.

to feed spurias.

ORCHIDS CHARLIE FOUQUETTE

Now is the time—

to be cautious when watering, your potting medium will be slow in drying out during cloudy spring days.

to check spiking plants and stake them if necessary. Be careful about turning pots as the spikes can become distorted reaching for the sun.

to be extra careful when watering phalaenopsis so that water does not remain in the crown overnight.

to fertilize cymbidiums with a 30-10-10 fertilizer and give them as much light as possible without burning the foliage, for better flowering next season.

to check cymbidiums for their need to be repotted and/or divided. Repot or divide as soon as possible to give new growth time to mature before the next blooming season.

to continue to be alert for cold drafts or sudden temperature drop that causes bud blasting.

to check on slugs and snails; their reproduction cycle is accelerated during these damp spring days.

to check sunlight intensity as summer approaches. You may need to start applying shade material on the greenhouse glass or provide shade for the outdoor plants.

to do spring house cleaning; clean up benches and space around plants. Slugs, snails, and sow bugs hid in debri between their nightly forays on cherished flower spikes. Do not leave a place for them to hid in or under.

to visit the orchid shows to see and become acquainted with what is new in the world of orchids.

ROSES BRIAN DONN

Now is the time—

to water generously, weekly if rainfall is light.

to keep foliage beautiful, disease and pest free, use (about every 10 days) Orthene and Funginex which can be mixed together and applied in one application. This mixture may be used to eliminate thrips which cause brown "freckles" and streaks on petals.

to give newly planted bushes that seem to be growing slowly, a root-stimulate such as Hormex or Super Thrive.

to feed established bushes with a balanced rose food every 3 to 4 weeks, except when in full bloom.

VEGETABLES GEORGE JAMES

Now is the time—

to make a spring planting of leaf vegetables from started plants of broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, chard, collards, kale, or lettuce.

to plant seeds of beans, corn, cucumbers, eggplant, peppers, squash, and tomatoes in pots or flats (in a protected place) so they will be ready to set out when the weather is suitable.

to set out started plants of eggplant, peppers, tomatoes, and summer squash; cover to protect from frost.

to plant onion and garlic sets.

GREEN THUMB ITEMS CALIFORNIA GREEN THUMBER

Now is the time—

to prune spring flowering shrubs and trees; use the branches for arrangements.

to mulch with leaf mold, manure, and water well after blooming is finished.

to cut back poinsettias, removing all last year's growth to within two joints of the old wood.

to finish in March the planting of bare-root trees and shrubs.

to divide chrysanthemums—make divisions and

take cuttings from old plants.
to set out annuals such as zinnias, pansies, marigolds, and petunias for spring and summer color.
to tie up foliage of daffodils and narcissus to be neat, but do not cut off until it has naturally withered and dried—the leaves feed bulbs for next season's flowers.
to mulch and reseed lawns in April where necessary.
to plant perennials: carnations, gerberas, Shasta daisies, and marguerites.
to feed nearly everything that has not been fed in March.
to water bedding plants and small trees and shrubs if rains have ended.
to give a top dressing of fresh soil and humus to clivias, agapanthus, and hippeastrums (amaryllis).

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City State Zip

Mail to: Hudson Sprayer Rebate Offer–P.O. Box PM-697–El Paso, TX 79966

Offer expires July 31, 1983.

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PRESENTS

37th ANNUAL ORCHID SHOW

A FESTIVAL OF ORCHIDS

MARCH 19 AND MARCH 20, 1983

PLANT SALES

AL BAHR TEMPLE

HIGHWAY 163 & CLAIREMONT MESA BLVD.

(Next to the Sands Hotel)

MARCH 17 . . . . . SHOW SETUP
MARCH 18 . . . . . JUDGING AND PREVIEW NIGHT
MARCH 19 & 20 . . . . . OPEN TO PUBLIC

REMEMBER THIS IS A WEEK AFTER THE SANTA BARBARA SHOW

FOR QUESTIONS CALL OR WRITE:

SHOW DIRECTOR
HENRY M. MAROSZ
6122 ROCKHURST DR.
SAN DIEGO, CA. 92120
(619) 583-0334